

MILITARY SERVICE

*Exchange of notes at Washington March 31, 1942, and February 8 and
March 2 and 16, 1943*

Entered into force March 2, 1943

*Terminated March 31, 1947*¹

57 Stat. 968; Executive Agreement Series 322

The Acting Secretary of State to the Greek Minister

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1942

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940² as amended, provides that with certain exceptions every male citizen of the United States and every other male person residing in the United States between the ages of 18 and 65 shall register. The Act further provides that, with certain exceptions, registrants within specified age limits are liable for active military service in the United States armed forces.

This Government recognizes that from the standpoint of morale of the individuals concerned and the over-all military effort of the countries at war with the Axis Powers, it would be desirable to permit certain classes of individuals who have registered or who may register under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, to enlist in the armed forces of a co-belligerent country, should they desire to do so. It will be recalled that during the World War this Government signed conventions with certain associated powers on this subject. The United States Government believes, however, that under existing circumstances the same ends may now be accomplished through administrative action, thus obviating the delays incident to the signing and ratification of conventions.

¹ Upon termination of functions of U.S. Selective Service System (60 Stat. 341).

² 54 Stat. 885.

This Government is prepared, therefore, to initiate a procedure which will permit aliens who have registered under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, who are nationals of co-belligerent countries and who have not declared their intention of becoming American citizens to elect to serve in the forces of their respective countries, in lieu of service in the armed forces of the United States, at any time prior to their induction into the armed forces of this country. Individuals who so elect will be physically examined by the armed forces of the United States, and if found physically qualified, the results of such examinations will be forwarded to the proper authorities of the co-belligerent nation for determination of acceptability. Upon receipt of notification that an individual is acceptable and also receipt of the necessary travel and meal vouchers from the co-belligerent government involved, the appropriate State Director of the Selective Service System will direct the local Selective Service Board having jurisdiction in the case to send the individual to a designated reception point for induction into active service in the armed forces of the co-belligerent country. If upon arrival it is found that the individual is not acceptable to the armed forces of the co-belligerent country, he shall be liable for immediate induction into the armed forces of the United States.

Before the above-mentioned procedure will be made effective with respect to a co-belligerent country, this Department wishes to receive from the diplomatic representative in Washington of that country a note stating that his government desires to avail itself of the procedure and in so doing agrees that:

(a) No threat or compulsion of any nature will be exercised by his government to induce any person in the United States to enlist in the forces of any foreign government;

(b) Reciprocal treatment will be granted to American citizens by his government; that is, prior to induction in the armed forces of his government they will be granted the opportunity of electing to serve in the armed forces of the United States in substantially the same manner as outlined above. Furthermore, his government shall agree to inform all American citizens serving in its armed forces or former American citizens who may have lost their citizenship as a result of having taken an oath of allegiance on enlistment in such armed forces and who are now serving in those forces that they may transfer to the armed forces of the United States provided they desire to do so and provided they are acceptable to the armed forces of the United States. The arrangements for effecting such transfers are to be worked out by the appropriate representatives of the armed forces of the respective governments.

(c) No enlistments will be accepted in the United States by his government of American citizens subject to registration or of aliens of any nationality who have declared their intention of becoming American citizens and are subject to registration.

This Government is prepared to make the proposed régime effective immediately with respect to Greece upon the receipt from you of a note stating that your government desires to participate in it and agrees to the stipulations set forth in lettered paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) above.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

SUMNER WELLES
Acting Secretary of State

The Honorable
CIMON P. DIAMANTOPOULOS,
Minister of Greece.

The Secretary of State to the Greek Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
February 8, 1943

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's note of March 31, 1942 and to subsequent conversations had by officers of the Department with the Embassy on the subject of the proposed agreement with your country concerning the service of nationals of one country in the armed forces of the other country.

In amplification of the Department's note of March 31, 1942 I may state that this Government is prepared, upon the conclusion of the proposed agreement, to grant to non-declarant Greek nationals serving in the armed forces of the United States, who did not previously have an opportunity of electing to serve in the forces of their own country, the privilege of applying for a transfer to the armed forces of Greece. Upon the conclusion of the agreement, the War Department is prepared to discharge, for the purpose of transferring to the armed forces of Greece, non-declarant Greek nationals serving in the United States forces who did not have a previous opportunity of opting for service with the Greek forces. I may also state, with reference to the second and third sentences of the third paragraph of the Department's note of March 31, 1942, that the details incident to carrying out the agreement may be modified in such manner as may be mutually agreeable, and to that end it is suggested that this subject be discussed by officers of the Embassy with the appropriate agencies of the United States Government upon the conclusion of the agreement.

If your Government is desirous of entering into the proposed agreement, and you will forward to the Department a note conforming to the conclud-

ing paragraph of the Department's note of March 31, 1942, this Government is prepared to make the proposed regime effective immediately upon the receipt of such note.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State
G. HOWLAND SHAW

His Excellency
CIMON P. DIAMANTOPOULOS,
Ambassador of Greece.

The Greek Ambassador to the Secretary of State

ROYAL GREEK EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
March 2, 1943

No. 431

EXCELLENCY:

Referring to your Notes of March 31, 1942 and February 8, 1943, and to conversations between officials of the Greek Embassy and the Department of State regarding the application of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, to Greek nationals in the United States and reciprocal treatment of American citizens serving in the Greek Army, in accordance with instructions of my Government I have the honor to accept the proposal as outlined in your aforesaid Notes and to advise that it agrees to do so under the conditions stated and with the stipulation set forth in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) in your Note.

I also wish to bring to the attention of Your Excellency that according to a Royal Decree Greek citizens belonging to the Navy reserves who are residing in the United States and who have not declared their intention to become citizens, are under obligation to register for service in the Royal Greek Navy at the Consular offices of Greece in this country.

I shall highly appreciate it if you will advise me the names of the appropriate officers in the War Department and the Selective Service System with whom Greek officials may discuss all details incident to carrying out the agreement.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

C. DIAMANTOPOULOS

His Excellency
MR. CORDELL HULL, *Secretary of State*
Washington, D.C.

The Secretary of State to the Greek Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1943

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 431 of March 2, 1943, in which you state that your Government desires to enter into the agreement, proposed in the Department's notes of March 31, 1942 and February 8, 1943, concerning the services of nationals of one country in the armed forces of the other country. You state that your Government agrees to the conditions and stipulations set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the Department's note of March 31, 1942.

I take pleasure in informing you that this Government now considers the agreement with your Government as having become effective on March 2, 1943, the date on which your note under acknowledgment was received in the Department. The appropriate authorities of the United States Government have been informed accordingly, and I may assure you that this Government will carry out the agreement in the spirit of full cooperation with your Government.

It is suggested that all the details incident to carrying out this agreement be discussed directly by officers of the Embassy with the appropriate officers of the War Department and of the Selective Service System. Lieutenant Colonel V. L. Sailor, of the Recruiting and Induction Section, Adjutant General's Office, War Department, and Lieutenant Colonel S. G. Parker, of the Selective Service System, will be available to discuss questions relating to the exercise of the option prior to induction. The Inter Allied Personnel Board of the War Department, which is headed by Major General Guy V. Henry, is the agency with which questions relating to the discharge of non-declarant nationals of Greece who may have been serving in the Army of the United States on the effective date of the agreement, and who desire to transfer to the Greek forces, may be discussed.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State
G. HOWLAND SHAW

His Excellency

CIMON P. DIAMANTOPOULOS,
Ambassador of Greece.